UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/24791
10 November 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 5 NOVEMBER 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Please find enclosed the third submission of the Government of the United States of America as requested by paragraph 5 of Security Council resolution 771 (1992).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Edward J. PERKINS

92-68872 3534c (E) 161192 161192

/...

Annex

Supplemental United States submission of information to the United Nations Security Council in accordance with paragraph 5 of resolution 771 (1992) and paragraph 1 of resolution 780 (1992)

This is the third submission by the United States Government of information pursuant to paragraph 5 of Security Council resolution 771 (1992) relating to the violations of humanitarian law, including grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions, being committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia. As in our two previous reports, we have focused on grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions and, in accordance with resolution 771 (1992), have provided information that is "substantiated", that is, which rests upon eyewitness testimony directly available to us or that includes detail sufficient for corroboration. For the moment, we have also tried not to duplicate information provided to us from other countries and non-governmental sources, which we understand will submit reports pursuant to resolutions 771 (1992) and 780 (1992). The information provided is intended to be useful to the Commission of Experts established pursuant to Security Council resolution 780 (1992). The United States has further substantiating information concerning the incidents included in this report, which we plan to provide directly to the Commission of Experts on a confidential basis.

In accordance with paragraph 1 of resolution 780 (1992), the United States intends to continue providing reports as additional relevant information comes into our possession.

The United States is pleased that the Commission of Experts established pursuant to resolution 780 (1992) is ready to begin its work. The United States played a leading role in the adoption of that resolution and stands ready to assist the Commission in its important work of investigating war-crimes allegations with the aim of preparing cases suitable for prosecution and, by doing so, of establishing the record of humanitarian offences in the former Yugoslavia.

As in the two previous United States reports, the notations at the end of each of the following items indicate the source from which the information was drawn.

FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

GRAVE BREACHES OF THE FOURTH GENEVA CONVENTION

THIRD SUBMISSION

Wilful killing

22 Oct. A group of approximately 18 ethnic Muslims was kidnapped near the Serbian town of Priboj on 22 October, while travelling on a bus route that took them into territory controlled by Bosnian Serbs. Belgrade newspapers reported on 23 October that the kidnapped Muslims had been killed. A Serb official has admitted that Serb paramilitaries operating in Bosnia basically had free run in the Sjeverin area prior to the police and army intervention after the kidnapping. (Department of State)

24-26 Sept. Muslims from Kamenica reportedly killed more than 60 Serb civilians and soldiers in Serbian villages near Milici from 24 to 26 September. (Department of State)

An American freelance writer reported that he saw the bodies of mutilated and tortured Serbs from the villages of Rogosija and Nedeljiste at the St. Paul and Peter Serbian Orthodox Church in Vlasenica after the lids on about 10 of the coffins were removed by soldiers for viewing.

> "Some bodies were burned to a charcoal, others had fingers cut off on their right hand, which the Orthodox use to bless themselves, some were circumcized as a final affront (Serbian Orthodox males in Yugoslavia are not circumcized, whereas Muslims are), some had their eyes gouged out, gaping knife wounds, everywhere, and heads were battered beyond recognition, arms and legs broken and severed." (Serbian American Media Center, Chicago)

27 Aug. Bosnian Muslim forces killed at least 20 Serbians after ambushing a convoy of people fleeing the outskirts of Goradze on 27 August. One of the survivors, a 64-year-old Serbian who lost his left leg after he was wounded in the ambush, told a correspondent that about 15 to 20 Muslim guerrillas had opened fire with automatic weapons beside the road just north of Kukavice. One witness, who lost his 11-year-old son during the ambush, claimed as many as 300 people were killed on the road. (The New York Times; The Daily Telegraph)

July-Aug. A 21-year-old man reported that he had witnessed the killing of 35-year-old Rizo Habibovic in the beginning of July at Omarska camp. Habibovic was kicked and pummelled with sticks and weapons for what seemed more than an hour by guards, two of whom had earlier worked with the witness at IMPRA meat

factory. The victim appeared to be still breathing when he was brought back to the "machine hall" with his chest caved in. A doctor tried to help, but Habibovic quickly succumbed.

According to this witness, most of the killings at Omarska took place at night at the "machine hall". Men would leave the facility when their names were called out, ostensibly to participate in a prisoner exchange programme. Regularly, shots would be heard not long after they left. No one who was called out after 9 p.m. ever came back. He believed their real destination was a mass grave a stone's throw from the machine hall.

The man in charge of Omarska camp, according to several witnesses, was a colonel from the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA). He had been stationed in the area long before the break-up of Yugoslavia, and was known to many in the population. He wore a white eagle on his cap; his authority over all the other soldiers in the camp was clearly apparent.

On 3 August, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) came to oversee the closing of the Omarska camp. Shortly before that time, some 1,250 inmates out of about 5,000 were transferred to Manjaca camp. (Department of State)

Mid-Aug. An elderly Serbian farmer was arrested in the village of Idbar, near Konjic, on 9 May. He reported that he was first taken to the police station in Konjic where he stayed for 21 days. He was then moved 6 kilometres away to Celebici, where he said that all the prisoners were Serbs and all the guards were Muslims. He said that beatings were carried out frequently by guards from outside the area. The prisoners, mostly young men, were beaten with wooden handles of farm tools or with metal rods.

He reported having witnessed 15 or 16 ethnic Serbs beaten so badly that they died. The witness was able to identify the camp commander and the most vicious of the guards. He was released from Celebici on 20 August with all prisoners over the age of 60. (Department of State)

24 July Three male Bosnian Muslims witnessed and survived a mass slaughter at Keraterm camp on 24 July, when guards opened fire with automatic rifles on a room packed with prisoners. About 150 men were killed or wounded in this one incident. According to these witnesses:

(a) They were locked along with 200 to 300 men into a single room estimated to be about 80 square metres in size, with a small alcove in the right rear corner. The room had a single window high up in the front wall above a large sheet-metal garage-type door with a smaller opening in it;

(b) Prisoners received little water or food. The temperature in the room was stifling, the conditions nearly unbearable;

(c) On 24 July, the prisoners in the room were given some water, but in the words of one of the witnesses, "they put something in the water" and the men "became crazy". Then something was shot through the window, which produced smoke and gas. The prisoners began screaming and pounding on the doors; some began to hallucinate and fight each other. Others managed to force a hole in the sheet metal of a door and started to escape the room, but were then killed by guards standing outside;

(d) After the disturbances in the room had gone on for some time, the soldiers opened fire with large machine-guns. The bullets came right through the sheet-metal doors. Those near the door were killed first. One of the witnesses survived because he had been in the back alcove and out of direct line of fire. Another survived when the body of another prisoner fell on him. An estimated 150 men were killed or wounded;

(e) On the following day, 25 July, soldiers came into the room and chose about 20 of the surviving prisoners, took them outside, lined them up against an outside wall of the room and shot them. (Department of State)

Another Bosnian Muslim from the Prijedor region, interviewed separately, also witnessed the 24 July massacre at Keraterm camp. He said that prisoners were kept in four rooms. He was in room No. 2. Room No. 3 was where prisoners were most severely tortured and where the massacre occurred. From a window in room No. 2, he witnessed the changes of the guards and automatic rifle fire.

On 25 July, guards chose two prisoners each from rooms No. 1 and No. 2 to remove the dead. These prisoners counted 99 dead and 42 wounded. They were ordered to put the wounded on the same truck as the dead. The truck was labelled "Prijedor Autotransport". Neither the wounded nor the driver were seen again.

Another witness believes the bodies were buried in the village of Tomarsica, near Omarska, in an area called Depunija. The witness's uncle watched a truck unload many bodies into a very deep pit and cover them with a large layer of dirt. A few days later, the uncle saw trucks dump animal corpses into the same pit. Another layer of soil was put on top of the animal corpses. (Department of State)

20 June — A 69-year-old Muslim farmer from the village of Kamicani was detained by Serbian forces in June, interned briefly at Trnopolje camp and around 20 June transferred to Omarska camp. When he arrived at Omarska, guards searched his pockets, confiscating DM 300 and ordered him to find his son.

When the witness found and identified his son, an irregular Serbian soldier who was a former policeman known to the witness took the son into a garage and ordered him to lie down. The irregular began to beat the son in his father's presence. Later, another prisoner told the witness that the irregular had killed his son and that he himself had loaded the son's body onto a truck with many other corpses. The bodies were taken to a nearby mineshaft and there covered over by a bulldozer.

According to this witness, this same former policeman also had murdered Jasko Hrnic and another person whose last name was Hrnjak. The witness said that the policeman had a gang at Omarska, of which he named three members. (Department of State)

26 May-6 Aug. — A 30-year-old Muslim was imprisoned for over nine weeks at Omarska camp. He had been apprehended by Serbian forces in Prijedor on 26 May. His duty was to help to transport the bodies of dead prisoners; he helped to transport or bury 10 to 20 persons each day. He estimates having carried 700 to 800 bodies during his imprisonment and commented that those killed for personal revenge typically were decapitated. The witness lost some relatives during the killings and reported having seen the following:

(a) "Guards threw prisoners into large bonfires; as they tried to escape, guards shot them in the back.";

(b) "Guards would periodically round up some of the more highly educated and take them to the 'white house', from which no one emerged alive".

He also witnessed guards beating, torturing or murdering prisoners. Nine of the guards are known to him. (Department of State)

May-Aug. A 40-year-old Muslim from Prijedor, who was interned in Omarska camp from 30 May to 3 August, described the final ordeal of a Muslim named Emir Karabasic, who had been tortured regularly and one day returned to the sleeping room with his back severely burned by a guard. Two days later, two Serbian brothers were let into the camp after 5 p.m. They had often visited the camp at night.

These brothers entered the sleeping quarters carrying pistols and automatic rifles. They called for Emir Karabasic, Jasmin and Alic to come forward. The three were beaten with rifle butts and police batons in full view of the other prisoners, including this witness. The brothers forced Alic first to drink a glass of motor oil and then to drink the urine of the other two prisoners.

Alic was next beaten until he was unconscious and then revived with cold water. After further beatings, Alic was forced to take his pants off. The brothers then forced Emir and Jasmin to bite off Alic's testicles. Alic died of his wounds that night. According to the witness, these crimes were committed on the shift of the shift leader under whom the most heinous tortures and beatings occurred. (Department of State)

May-June About 3,000 men, women and children were killed during May and June at the Luka-Brcko camp, which held approximately 1,000 civilian internees at any one time. Some 95 per cent were ethnic Muslims and the remainder were Croatians. Approximately 95 per cent were men. Until May the bodies were dumped into the Sava River. Thereafter, they were transported to and burned in both the old and the new "kafilerija" factories located in the vicinity of Brcko.

All internees in the camp came from within a 14-kilometre radius of Brcko. The first hangar was occupied by Muslims from Brezovo Polje. The Serbian police appeared to have administrative control of the camp.

Upon arrival, all internees were questioned by one of three inspectors who decided their fate. For example, if a person was a member of the Party of Democratic Action or the Croatian Democratic Community political parties, he was executed at the camp. Other questions included whether the person had foreign currency, gold, or weapons or if a neighbour might have any of these items. Without a signature from either the police chief at the camp or one of the military officers, a person could not be released.

Approximately 1,000 people were released from the camp when Serbs vouched with their lives (and signed documents to that effect) that the internees would not leave Brcko, discuss politics or own weapons. These people were all released within a 48-hour period; thereafter, releases were not authorized.

One example was an individual who had his ears cut off with a knife by a Specijalci soldier. As he grabbed for his ears in pain, a young woman cut off his genitalia with an instrument called a "spoon". As he fell forward and lay on the ground, he was shot in the head by a guard. In other instances, ears and noses were cut off and eyes gouged out. Knives were used to cut into the skin of internees all the way to the bone; some fingers were cut off entirely. All was done in front of other internees.

Beatings with clubs were common. A Specijalci soldier used a wooden club with metal protruding from it to kill several people. He forced internees to lick the blood from the metal studs. Another shot an individual in the back several times after he had carried a dead body behind the third hanger. In June, some 50 to 60 men had their genitalia removed.

Approximately 10 to 15 Chetniks, Yugoslav Federal Specijalci, and Serbian police were involved during the daily occurrences, but some participated on a more regular basis. Some were drunk. Internees were told to sing. Those who did not sing loud enough were shot point-blank. After they had started singing, the men would come in and randomly start shooting. About 50 men, women and children were killed in one case, allegedly in retaliation for the death of 12 Chetniks who had been killed on the front. This type of shooting occurred on a daily basis with anywhere from 15 to 50 victims.

There was also a torture room at the Luka-Brcko camp. Those tortured were either killed immediately after being tortured or were left to bleed and, if they did not die in two to four days on their own, were shot to death. They were left lying in their own blood in the living areas and other internees were not allowed to help in any way. People were beaten with clubs to the point that the bones in their faces caved in and they died.

The internees were then "volunteered" by camp personnel to carry the dead bodies behind their living area or to the camp garbage dump. During the movement of the bodies, additional internees were killed when a camp official took shots at them.

Another frequent occurrence was the shooting of internees with three bullets in the back of the head of each victim. This was done at a drain and the blood was allowed to go down the drain that emptied into the Sava River. Internees carried victims, some still alive, and had to dump their bodies at the camp garbage dump. Internees were sent on a detail to clean the blood from the floor and dump dead bodies outside of a Serbian building in Brcko.

A female internee was sexually assaulted by a soldier while her husband and other internees watched. One Chetnik sexually assaulted several women, some as young as 12, in front of internees as Specijalci soldiers held the women to the ground. The same man killed 80-100 people at the camp. Another Chetnik sexually assaulted women and killed internees, in some cases using an axe to the head.

The dead bodies of internees from the Brcko camp were burned at the old "kafilerija" factory. The trucks carrying bodies drove into a building that had three industrial-sized cooking vats with furnaces used ordinarily to make animal feed. The bodies were dumped inside the building with the three furnaces, then Chetniks dumped the dead bodies into the furnaces.

Before the bodies were dumped, jewelry was removed from them and, in order to remove rings, fingers were cut off. Gold and silver teeth were removed from the bodies as well. Chetniks kicked the jaws of the corpses open to see if they had gold or silver fillings and, if so, removed them with pliers.

The transporting of the bodies to be burned began in mid-May. Trucks left every morning at about 4 a.m. On a typical morning, three trucks left together. One was a civilian refrigerator truck with the dead bodies and 3 Chetniks in the cabin, the second had 10 to 12 internees who unloaded the bodies at the factory, and the third had approximately 13 Chetnik guards.

After they arrived at the factory and had begun unloading bodies, two or three more refrigerator trucks often arrived with approximately 20 dead bodies transported in each vehicle, perhaps from another location. All the trucks were Yugoslavian-made civilian trucks. (Department of State)

24-26 May — Statements by Muslim refugees, Western aid officials and diplomats and Serbian police described the 24 to 26 May "ethnic cleansing" of Kozarac by Bosnian Serb forces.

"They were pulling out private entrepreneurs and educated people, anyone who could ever organize any Muslim life in Kozarac again", said a 42-year-old Kozarac resident.

A 60-year-old resident said some of the men had been shot on the spot and others taken into a house or a bus shelter where their throats were slit. Still others had been killed as they were put on buses destined for the Omarska, Keraterm and Trnopolje camps. (The Washington Post)

23 May — Two brothers, a 17-year-old trade school student and a 28-year-old, described how Serb armoured units surrounded their village of Rakovcani on 23 or 25 May and marched them to Prijedor, then transported them to the Serb-run Omarska camp.

The brothers were reluctant to estimate how many killings they had personally observed that first week, but suggested it was about 50. They saw five of their fellow prisoners stabbed in the face and cut across the throat until their heads were virtually severed. Others had the Serbian (Orthodox) cross carved into their chests or arms. There seemed to be no pattern or particular motive for these attacks or the execution-style shootings that were taking place inside the facility. As far as they could determine, the victims were not being interrogated; the violence appeared totally random.

At the beginning of June, the brothers were moved to a nearby hall housing many of the machines used for the facility's iron extraction operation. For the remaining two-and-a-half months of their captivity, they were forced to run a gauntlet to a "dining" hall in another part of the camp in order to get their one daily meal of soup and a piece of bread. Each time they did so they were beaten and kicked. Anyone who fell was killed. (Department of State)

21 May — A former employee of the Zvornik medical centre reported that he was required to remain on duty in the centre from 8 April until his dismissal on 26 May. He said that the need for more hospital space for wounded Serbian soldiers eventually led to the mass murder of Muslim patients on 21 May. At about 1 p.m. that day, he watched as 36 remaining Muslim adult patients were forced outside and shot to death on hospital grounds.

Shortly thereafter, uniformed and non-uniformed Serbian soldiers moved through the pediatric centre breaking the necks and bones of the 27 remaining Muslim children, the only children left as patients in the hospital. Two soldiers forced him to watch for about 15 minutes, during which time about 10 or 15 of the children were slaughtered. Some were infants. The oldest were about five years old.

The witness said that a Serbian surgeon, who also stood by helplessly, later went insane. (Department of State)

20 Nov. 1991 — International observers on 20 November monitored the evacuation of about 420 Croatian patients and 25 hospital staff of the Vukovar hospital in Croatia. A JNA army colonel selected young, lightly-wounded hospitalized soldiers to get on three buses. Each bus had about 60 men aboard, for a total of about 180 men.

Two witnesses - both among the "selected" - described how the buses were taken first to JNA barracks for two or three hours, then taken to Mvčara, where the prisoners were offloaded and taken to a farming equipment storage building. Paramilitary soldiers beat the prisoners at this location with fists, iron bars, and batons as officers watched. Apparently, two men died there from the beatings they received.

At about 5 p.m. on 20 November, after it was quite dark, the men were divided into groups of about 20 men, taken outside the barn and put on a truck. The truck returned empty about every 15 minutes. The truck drove about 3 kilometres south-east of Ovcara towards Grabovo and turned left onto a dirt road. Knowing that this road led to an extremely isolated area, one of the witnesses jumped from the truck and eventually lived to give this account.

A member of the team working with Mr. Mazowiecki, Special Rapporteur of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, discovered evidence on 18-19 October 1992, of a mass grave in the area from which this witness had escaped. The Croatian Government claims that 174 people - believed to be buried in this mass grave - have never been found. The team member found skeletons of young adult males in an area of recently disturbed earth and a skull with a gunshot wound existing from the left temple. (Department of State)

Torture of prisoners

27 Aug.-16 Sept. — Four of seven survivors of the 21 August mass murder at Vlasica (reported to the United Nations in an earlier submission) testified that 18 Muslim male "patients" were interned in the Paprikovac Optical Hospital on the outskirts of Banja Luca. At the time, this hospital was being used as a military hospital by Bosnian Serbian forces in the region.

The four subjects had been found wandering separately in the woods several days after the mass murder at Vlasica. Turned over to Serbian military forces, each was brought to Banja Luca where they spent 24 to 27 August in the surgical hospital before being transferred to the Optical Hospital across town. All four remained in the Optical Hospital until 16 September.

At the Optical Hospital, the four subjects were in room No. 11, on the fourth floor of the hospital, with six other Muslims. Their door was always locked. The hallway wall of their room was made of translucent glass, permitting the guard stationed outside to see inside. Nightly, wounded Serbian soldiers from elsewhere in the hospital, as well as guards, beat them with cable wires and police batons. Each of the four subjects was beaten every day. There were two other rooms accommodating four Muslims each.

The prisoners received a slice of bread a day, with some broth. They were given almost no pure water to drink, but they were forced to drink urine regularly. All four had hospital discharge papers that claimed they had been treated for internal injuries and chronic heart diseases. The prisoners, however, said they had never even received so much as an aspirin. (Department of State)

Aug.-Sept. A fifth survivor of the incident described above, a 16-year-old Muslim student who had been among the several hundred men taken from Trnopolje camp on 21 August on a convoy to Vlasica Mountain, also survived the mass murder of several hundred prisoners.

An elderly Serbian man found the youth unconscious some nine days later at the edge of the village of Vlasica. Two Serbian soldiers took him to the school in the village where they interrogated and beat him. He was then sent to the Paprikovac Hospital in Banja Luka, ostensibly to have a broken finger and bruised back examined.

The 16-year-old, on being checked into the "hospital", was beaten 20 times on his kidneys by the military police in attendance. During his month in Paprikovac "hospital", he was fed one slice of bread each day, was rarely given pure water to drink, and dropped in weight from 68 to only 50 kilogrammes. Every morning and evening, the guards forced the prisoners to drink a glass of urine.

The youth was able to identify the military commander of the hospital. (Department of State)

21 July — A 42-year-old Bosnian Muslim, married to a Serb, was arrested in his apartment in Pijedor on 21 July. Civilian police took him in a police car to Omarska where, at the gate to the camp, guards began to beat him. During the beating, one of the guards said, "Don't forget, his wife is a Serb". The prisoner hoped this would cause the guards to go easier on him. Instead, they beat him more violently. Three soldiers beat him for about 10 minutes.

The prisoner was then taken to Omarska's "white house". There the guards began beating him and other prisoners, forcing them to lie on the floor and stomping on them with their jackboots. After two days without any food, he was taken for "interrogation".

He was led to a room in what he thought had been the administration building of the Omarska facility before the war. There were five guards in the room. He was told to kneel on the floor. The guards then circled him, beating him with metal bars and police batons. Twice he lost consciousness and collapsed on the floor. Each time the guards doused him with water, revived him and continued to beat him.

After two or three more days of beatings, he was transferred from the smaller room in the "white house" to a larger hall full of prisoners. For five days he was unable to walk and had to lie next to the sinks that were used as toilets. During his 12 days at Omarska, this prisoner received food only once. (Department of State)

26 May-6 Aug. — A 30-year-old Muslim was imprisoned for over nine weeks at Omarska camp. He had been apprehended by Serbian forces in Prijedor on 26 May. The witness reported having seen the following:

> "Guards frequently beat people with thick electrical cables, often so badly that they could not stand afterward; in administering these beatings, guards would hit prisoners in specific places on their bodies, often the kidneys, in an effort to rupture important internal organs.
>
> "Prisoners were forced to run across broken glass in their bare feet; when they fell, guards would beat them with nightsticks and iron bars.
>
> "As a punishment administered in front of a group of prisoners, a guard cut off the testicles of a prisoner with a knife; one prisoner was forced, under threat of being executed, to bite off the testicles of another prisoner with his teeth.

"The only water that prisoners had to drink was from a river contaminated by discharges from an iron mine; the water was yellow, the prisoners' urine ran red." (Department of State)

12 May-18 Aug. A 59-year-old retired Serbian was arrested by Croat authorities on 12 May in Mostar along with his son. No reason was given except that they were Serbs. Held at a detention centre in Mostar, they were forced to do hard labour, building bunkers and other defensive structures at the airport. Those who could not work or stopped working to rest repeatedly were beaten around the head and kidneys with nightsticks. (Department of State)

May-June The Luka-Brcko camp at any one time held about 1,000 civilians, predominately Muslim internees. At one point, approximately 50 per cent of the internees had crosses engraved into their foreheads with knives by Chetniks who gave them Orthodox names such as Alexander. The internees were required to say "I am Alexander". One internee agreed to say "I am Alexander" only after three to four days of beatings. He was convinced by fellow internees that it was better to say it than to die. This did not happen to Croatians, only Muslims.

Also a daily occurrence, a police commander, and other camp personnel came into the hangar with raki (an alcoholic beverage) and tartan (white pills). An internee had his mouth opened and the police commander forced the raki and pills into his throat. The police then told the internee to beat with a club everyone in the hangar. He obeyed, and for one to two hours beat up his fellow internees in the third hangar until they passed out.

Internees lived in one of three hangars - the first, 20 by 28 metres in size, housed 650 to 700 men; the second, 20 by 40 metres, housed 120 to 180 men; and the third, 20 by 40 metres, housed approximately 300 men, women and children. Many killings and tortures occurred in front of internees in the third hangar. There was also one more area where women and children were kept. The second and third hangars were connected by a large door through which people could see each other.

Internees in the first hangar slept standing up because of the limited space. In the other two hangars they were allowed to sit, but legs had to remain straight on the ground; all internees had to remain along the wall, and the centre area had to be left empty. They were allowed to go to the toilet once a day for no longer than a minute. The toilet was

located in another building. In many instances, approximately five 10-litre buckets were placed in each of the hangars and used as toilets. The conditions at the camp were so bad that some of the internees went crazy. One man rammed his face into a wall, causing it to bleed.

In June, goats were placed in the hangars and lived with the internees. The stench inside the hangars was a combination of goats, human excrement and dead internees placed behind the third hangar. Blood was ankle deep in the area where the bodies were placed.

The internees initially each received 50 grams of bread and approximately 0.15 litres of thin bean soup each day. Later, every 10 persons received 800 grams of bread per day and every 2 people shared a 0.16-litre portion of bean porridge once a week. The porridge was always spoiled. Still later, 10 to 12 people shared 800 grams of bread every four days. (Department of State)

Late May

A 32-year-old Muslim said Serbian irregular forces had entered his village of Donji Garevci in late May 1992 and rounded up all the Muslim men for incarceration. The group was marched to Trnopolje, then bused to Omarska camp. When they arrived at Omarska, they found that the camp was "full", and the group was taken by buses to a converted ceramic tile factory, called Keraterm, in Prijedor. Guards at Keraterm formed the prisoners into three groups and administered a beating, from which the witness still had a lump on his skull in October. The healthiest-looking were beaten most severely.

The men were herded into an airless room about 20 by 25 feet. The room held over 200 people. The witness, detained there for 29 days, received one meal a day, usually a few beans and two small slices of stale bread, and lost 17 kilogrammes during this period.

The witness saw and was forced to participate in sadistic brutality. Guards would force the prisoners to run in a circle and kick the person in front of them in the kidneys. Every evening, irregulars came to the room and called out names from a list. These persons were taken to another room and beaten severely. To revive the prisoners from these beatings, guards would urinate on their heads or turn a fire hose on them. The witness was able to identify several of the guards. (Department of State)

Early May — A witness described conditions at the five detention centres in Bosanski Samac. The prisoners were Croats, Muslims and Albanians. According to this personal account, nearly everyone, including women and elderly men, suffered beatings and other forms of torture.

> "The beatings were at the beginning done by special forces. Later the job was taken over by policemen who guarded us. They were local Serbs who carried out their jobs far more brutally than the special units men. They beat us with iron bars, wooden two-by-fours and truncheons, iron and rubber devices."

The witness reported being prevented from drinking water and from going to the toilet. Prisoners were forced to eat sand, swallow their own feces and perform sex acts on fellow prisoners. (New York Newsday)

Abuse of civilians in detention centres

Sept. — At least 150 Muslim women and teen-age girls, some as young as 14, who have crossed into Bosnian government-held areas of Sarajevo in recent weeks are in advanced stages of pregnancy, reportedly after being raped by Serbian nationalist fighters and after being imprisoned for months afterwards in an attempt to keep them from terminating their pregnancies. "When we let you go home you'll have to give birth to a Chetnik", Serb fighters supposedly repeated to some of the women. "We won't let you go while you can have an abortion".

A 15-year-old Muslim girl told the British Broadcasting Corporation on 1 October that she had been seized by Serbian fighters in May in the Serb-held Sarajevo district of Grbavica. She said she had been held in a small room with about 20 other girls where they were ordered to undress.

> "We refused, then they beat us and tore our clothes off. They pushed us on the floor. Two of the men held me down while two others raped me. I shouted at them and tried to fight back but it was no use. As they raped me they said they'd make sure I gave birth to a Serbian baby, and they kept repeating that during the rest of the time that they kept me there."

Most of these charges were made by women and girls who said they were attacked in April and May in towns and villages in eastern Bosnia. (The New York Times)

May-Aug. A 41-year-old Croatian female from Kozarac, a 40-year-old Muslim male from Prijedor and a 39-year-old Muslim male were interned for approximately three-month periods at Omarska camp. All three subjects claim to have witnessed severe beatings, sexual torture, mutilation and killings.

In part because they had spent such long periods in the camp, they were able to identify what they believed to be virtually the entire personnel structure of Omarska camp.

Omarska was one of four very large camps in the Prijedor area. It was an aluminum mine before the conflict. The other three camps are Keraterm, Trnopolje and Manjaca. Civilians were interned at all four camps, while most alleged prisoners-of-war were sent to Manjaca. Many detainees described Omarska as the worst of the four.

Omarska camp was commanded by a retiree from Prijedor. His administrative deputy was a middle-age woman who kept the camp records, i.e., the payroll ledger of the guards and officers, the guard shift schedule, etc.

The commander of security at Omarska (Obezbjedjenja) was a 29-year-old inspector in the Bosnian Serbian police before the war. He came from the village of Petrov Gaj, near Prijedor. Because of his position and the amount of time he spent at the camp, many internees concluded, incorrectly, that he was the overall commander at Omarska. In late May, his deputy was a 30-year-old Serb from the nearby village of Lamovita who had Muslim brothers-in-law whom he tried to hide in his house. When this was discovered, he was replaced. This change of deputies occurred in late June.

Omarska camp had three regular guard teams. The teams worked 12-hour shifts, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. They rotated consecutively. The three shift leaders were named and identified.

A 40-year-old policeman from Lamovita was identified as the most brutal of the shift leaders. The most heinous tortures and beatings and the largest number of deaths took place during his shifts. A middle-aged waiter who used to work at the Hotel Europa in Omarska before the war was identified as a generally less brutal shift leader. A man in his thirties from the village of Maricki, who was in the police reserve and had worked in the Omarska mine before the war, was identified as less brutal than the former shift leaders. Each shift team was comprised of 15 to 20 guards.

Omarska had various inspectors who regularly interrogated the prisoners. Six of them were named. At least two of the three witnesses personally identified and named 39 Omarska guards.

The female witness said 38 women in the camp slept near the commander's headquarters, in rooms Nos. 102 and 103. As they tried to sleep, the women heard screams of prisoners being tortured next door, in the "interrogation" room. Each morning the women were awakened at 6 a.m. and two were chosen randomly to clean the "interrogation" room, which was covered with fresh blood each morning. The women were always hidden from journalists.

Omarska had two buildings used exclusively as torture centres, the "white house" and the "red house". Some people returned from the "white house", but no one sent to the "red house" ever came back. Educated internees tended to be sent to the "red house".

All three witnesses as well as other detainees from Omarska said that each day 10 to 15 new corpses lay in the field next to one of the "dormitories". These corpses, as well as others, were driven away by small trucks. The trucks often had blood stains all over them. These witnesses were able to identify at least six of the drivers. (Department of State)

14-15 June — A 32-year-old Muslim auto mechanic was arrested in Hrnici, near Trnopolje, on 14 June and was locked up at Trnopolje camp with 10 others in what was called the "shock room". He spent 24 hours locked in this room on 14 and 15 June with no food, water or toilet.

Through a window, the detainee saw prison guards bring 12 to 15 teen-age girls to the camp. The girls struggled to get away from the guards, but none escaped. The girls were forced to enter a building across from his cell. That evening, through the window, he saw a guard rape a young girl next to the Red Cross building at the camp. The witness was able to identify this guard, considered one of the cruellest guards at Trnopolje. (Department of State)

May — One of the victims of an earlier reported rape of 40 young women from Brezovo Polje told a reporter in late August that her Serbian abductor had told her:

> "We have orders to rape the girls. I am ashamed to be a Serb. Everything that is going on is a war crime." (New York Newsday)

Deliberate attacks on non-combatants

Oct. By October, five members of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) contingent in Sarajevo had been killed by combatants. In one incident, two French soldiers were killed by fire from Bosnian government forces, which were engaged in a firefight with Bosnian Serbian forces after a local cease-fire negotiated by UNPROFOR broke down. (Department of State)

13 Aug. American Broadcasting Company television producer David Kaplan was killed on 13 August by a sniper while travelling in a motorcade in Sarajevo with Prime Minister Milan Panic. He was hit in the back and died at United Nations Headquarters in Sarajevo. (The New York Times; Department of State)

July A Cable News Network camerawoman was shot and severely wounded in July by sniper fire in Sarajevo. She is recovering after several operations at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. (The New York Times)

18 May An International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) convoy carrying food and medical relief on 18 May was attacked as it entered Sarajevo, despite the security guarantees obtained from the parties concerned. Three ICRC staff members were wounded and one of them, Frederic Maurice, died the next day in Sarajevo hospital. (ICRC Bulletin No. 197)

Apr. A Belgian member of the European Community monitoring mission was killed south of Mostar in April, apparently in an attack by Serbian Democratic Party forces. (Department of State)

Other, including mass forcible expulsion and deportation of civilians

NOTE: Given the massive scale of forced exoduses from various regions in the former Yugoslavia, the episodes below were selected only to give an indication of how people have been forced from their homes.

2 Nov. A huge column of 15,000 to 30,000 Bosnians, mostly Muslims, thousands on foot, fled from Serbian assaults on Jajce and three-way fighting between Serb, Croat and Bosnian government forces in the area. (Department of State)

25 Oct. Stores and restaurants were still burning in Prozor on 29 October following a Croatian offensive, in an apparent attempt to overtake western Bosnia and Herzegovina. "Come on boys, let's get the filthy Muslims!" shouted Croatian fighters through megaphones.

Croatian Mayor Jozic estimated that 6 Muslims died and 68 were wounded during the attack, but sources in Sarajevo estimated that at least 300 Muslims were killed or wounded. (The New York Times)

17 Oct. About 1,500 persons from several Croatian and Muslim towns around the city of Kotor Varos, near Banja Luka, surrendered after having been under Serbian attack for two weeks and left in an organized evacuation for Travnik. During the night convoy, uncontrolled Serbian militia robbed passengers as international escort volunteers looked on, helpless to prevent it. (Department of State)

26 May Statements by Muslim refugees, Western aid officials and diplomats, and Serbian police described the 24 to 26 May "ethnic cleansing" of Kozarac by Bosnian Serb forces. "Muslims get out! Muslims get out!" shouted Serbs during 37 hours of shelling the city. "Surrender and everyone will be safe!" (The Washington Post)

23 May Two brothers - a 17-year-old trade school student and a 28-year-old - described how Serb armoured units surrounded their village of Rakovcani on 23 or 25 May and marched its mostly Muslim inhabitants about 5 kilometres to a soccer stadium in Prijedor. Some 800 Serbs were allowed to remain in the village. After nearly a day at the stadium, they were transported with thousands of men by buses and trucks to the Omarska camp. (Department of State)